

# Types of Sentences

Skilled writers vary the lengths of their sentences. Using too many short sentences makes writing choppy; however, using too many long sentences can make writing confusing. When you write, try to mix **simple**, **compound**, **complex**, and **compound-complex** sentences to achieve variety and clarity. (See pages 577–579 in *Texas Write Source* for more on types of sentences.)



## Examples

*Simple Sentence:*

**Jack and Maria love in-line skating.**

*Compound Sentence:*

**They play on a roller-hockey team, and they enjoy the competition.**

*Complex Sentence:*

**Although they are amateurs now, Jack and Maria dream of being professional skaters someday.**

*Compound-Complex Sentence:*

**Because they are determined to fulfill their dream, Jack and Maria practice daily, and they read everything that they can find about skating.**

**Note:** A compound-complex sentence contains two or more independent clauses and one or more dependent clauses.



## Directions

Label the following sentences with “S” for simple, “C” for compound, “CX” for complex, and “CC” for compound-complex. The first sentence has been done for you.

- S   1. Joseph Merlin, a Dutchman, invented roller skates in the eighteenth century.
2. After he studied the design of ice skates, Joseph fastened wooden spools in the place of the ice-skate blades.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. In 1763, metal wheels replaced the wooden spools, and in 1863, American inventor James Leonard Plimpton created rocking skates that allowed the skater to maneuver more easily.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Ball-bearing wheels were introduced late in the nineteenth century, and, as a result, roller-skating became even more popular.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Skateboards and in-line skates are modifications of roller skates.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Skateboards are short, wide boards made of wood, plastic, or fiberglass.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. In-line skates were first manufactured in the 1980s, and they have become very popular with people of all ages.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Although roller-skating has not been accepted as an Olympic sport, athletes can compete in events like short-track speed skating with other roller skaters.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Because Roller Derby was so popular in the 1950s, fans flocked to indoor rinks to watch, or they stayed home and watched on their televisions.

**Next Step** Find out more about Roller Derby, speed skating, or roller hockey by using the Internet or other sources. Write a paragraph about your findings and share your writing with a classmate. Ask your classmate to label the types of sentences you used in your paragraph.